

B.R.A.S.S.

Barrie Region Aquarium Society of Simcoe



Bulletin

NEXT MEETING
JUNE 14, 2011
7:00PM - 9:00PM
MAPLE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Mail Bag

From the Office of the President

Well here we are, June already. Feels like summer is finally here. With June, comes the elections. Come prepared to help select or run for the executive for the coming year.

Application has gone in, to book the school for the next year (second Tuesday as it is now).

At the exec meeting we decided to join CAOAC without purchasing their insurance until next year when we will not be charged the extra \$50.00 late fee.

I understand congratulations are in order for one of our own for "Best Fish in Show" at the CAOAC Show and Auction. We also took a couple of seconds by other members. Congrats to the three of you. More info elsewhere in bulletin.

Things may be happening during the summer, so read on and find out more at the meeting. I want thank everyone for a great first year and looking forward to next year. Also thank you to the executive and others who have been putting forth an extra effort.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the June meeting.

Doug



Message from the Editor

What a wonderful time Doug and I had at the CAOAC auction in Brantford. We met up with Jeff and we all made off like bandits.

This was a fabulous time to get some new plants and fish and tons of magazines for our club's library.

I just want to say how much I have enjoyed being your editor this year, it has been a real blast to put together a Newsletter each month for all of you and making you laugh with my title pages.

You will notice that this month's Title page features our new logo. Great work Jeff!

Come ready for our election on Tuesday June 14th!

Kara
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Secretary's Report

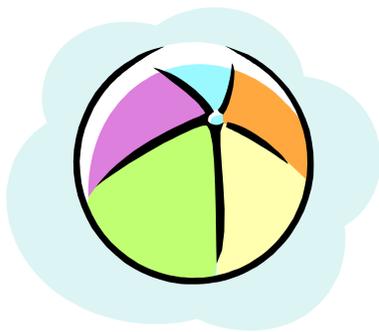
As submitted by Bonnie Smith

The May 10, 2011 meeting had eleven people in attendance. Minutes of last month's meeting read by Doug Fleming. Doug informed us that our secretary Gary is having health issues and may not be able to attend several meetings. Our constitution is done! Your Executive have been working hard on refining a document that suits us as a club. Please take a copy home, read it and come next month prepared to vote on it. Next month we will also vote on our Executive for next year. It is very important that you come to the meeting, make your vote count!

In Question Period we discussed the effect municipal flushing of water lines has on our fish. PJ's Pets lost a lot of fish the last time it was done. Most municipalities use high concentrations of Chlorine and chloramine. Call your Municipal Office and ask when the next flushing will be for your area and prepare ahead so you'll know not to do water changes during or shortly after that time frame. We received a box of donations that we will use for raffles, but will start this in September. Some really nice articles.

Our guest speaker was Bob Wright who talked about Native Fish. Bob has been keeping fish for 42 years. He had lots of pictures and information for us. He explained what is legal and what is not, there is a lot of misinformation out there. It is not true that you can't keep Native Fish in Ontario. Miriam, Bryan and Doug Smith won Rainbow Darters that Bob brought to show us. A very informative and interesting topic. How many of you went home and went on line to get more info like Doug? Maybe some new hobbyists joining the Native Fish ranks.

Bob Wright is also president of CAOAC and he was able to shed some light on the insurance and membership fees. We would be insured only for third party, meaning is one of our member was hurt on an outing we wouldn't be covered. This will go back to the Executive to discuss and make a decision.



Fish Tank Temperatures During the Summer

By David A. Lass

Keep fish tank temperatures down during the summer.

Every summer problems arise with keeping fish tank temperatures in the range that is comfortable for fish. This is especially important with reef tanks and corals in general, but it is also relevant for any fish tank and any fish. When aquarium water temperature rises, you get a sort of "double whammy." As the aquarium water temperature rises, the metabolism of the fish also rises, and the fish require more oxygen in the water. However, as aquarium water temperature rises, the water actually holds less dissolved oxygen. As you can see, higher fish tank temperatures can be a real problem.

Mechanical

The most obvious remedy for a fish tank that is overheating is mechanical. Air condition the room the fish tank is in. This will keep the room and fish tank temperature consistent. Fishkeepers can also use a chiller on the fish tank. A chiller is usually a must have for marine reef tanks. Another remedy is to set up a fan blowing on low speed over the surface of the fish tank. The first two options can be expensive, not only for the equipment, but also for the electricity to run them. The fan method is good, but it really doesn't do a great deal in terms of lowering fish tank temperatures.

Water Bottles

A low-tech, low-cost, but effective solution to lowering fish tank temperatures is to freeze plastic bottles with water in them. Depending on the size of the fish tank and how much cooling you have to do, you need to experiment to see if small bottles will do the trick, or if you need to upsize to larger bottles. In any case, freeze at least three bottles of whichever size you decide the tank needs. When you fill the bottle with water and put it in the freezer, be sure to leave the top off, or you run the risk of cracking the bottle. A frozen bottle of water is perfect for cooling down a fish tank. Experimenting with the size and number of bottles you need, and how often you need to change them, is something that each hobbyist has to do on their own. The plastic bottle puts something between the ice and the fish, and you are not messing around with the tank water in any way. To be even safer, some folks may want to wrap the plastic ice bottle with a plastic fish bag. Credit for this method goes to Maurino Viveiros, fish room manager and assistant store manager for Rumford Pet Center, in East Providence, R.I.



COAOC Convention Results

The recent CAOAC convention was held in Brantford at the Best Western on May 20-23. The event included great speaker presentations, a vendor display, fish show, auction and other activities. Doug and Kara Fleming attended the auction on the Monday with Jeff Mountjoy in attendance as well. A few fish, some grab bags of aquarium supplies and plants were just some of the items that Jeff, Doug & Kara scored.

Exciting Announcements: Miriam Mountjoy's bristlenose catfish placed 2nd in the Suckermouth Catfish category and Meredith Mountjoy's *Synodontis ateriinna* placed 2nd in the AOV (Any other Variety Catfish) category at the CAOAC fish show. The Mountjoys also took "Sherbert", their Red Devil Cichlid to the show and were thrilled to win 1st place in the New World Cichlids 4"+ category and also took home Best of Show!

Showing fish can be a lot of fun. Getting the fish ready to show and transporting them can be a challenge but the efforts can be very worthwhile. It is great to participate along side other fish enthusiasts and help make an event a success. The CAOAC fish show was an "open show" and that meant that any individual could enter. We look forward to showing fish at other future club shows and we encourage other members of BRASS to do the same too! It would be nice to see our club officially recognized in the future with participation in these shows once our CAOAC membership is confirmed.

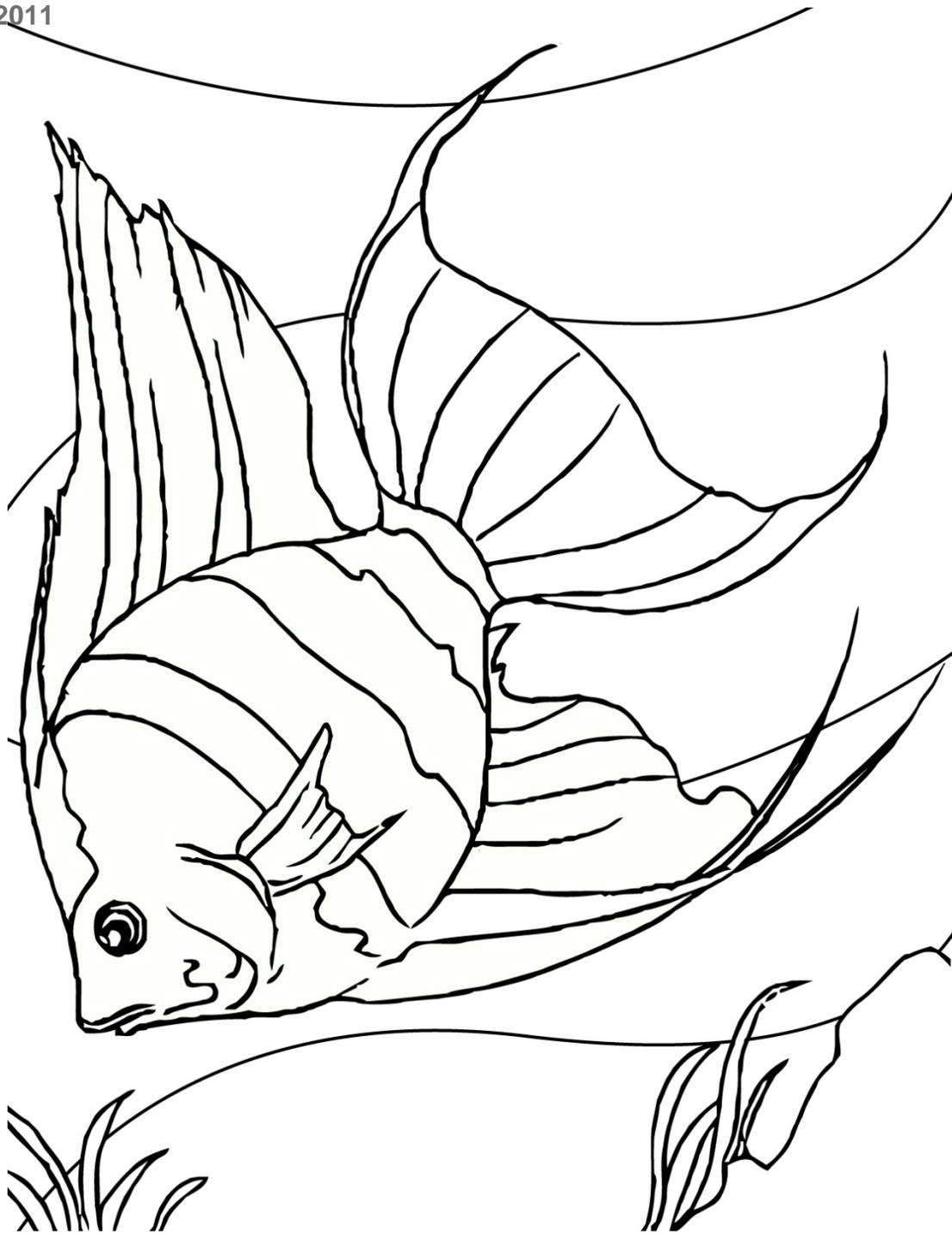
To see some highlights of the CAOAC event follow this picture posting link by Zenin Skomorowski of the Kitchener Waterloo Aquarium Society (KWAS) who took lots of pictures over the weekend:

<http://www.kwas.ca/forum/showthread.php?20156-Links-to-Slideshows-from-the-CAOAC-Convention-Brantford-20-23-May-2011>



APRIL 2011

ISSUE 5



Library Update: Our club library got a boost this past month. Several issues of Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine were acquired at the CAOAC auction held in Brantford on May 23rd which Jeff, Doug and Kara attended. The magazines will be added to our library and their contents summarized for our sign-out folder. Also donated to our club from Lee Finley (Catfish specialist) via Bob Wright of CAOAC was a very special book, entitled "The Toy Fish-A History of the Aquarium Hobby in America-The First One-Hundred Years-by Albert J. Klee. Thank you Bob! Our club appreciates this generous gift.

Upcoming Programs

June Program: As we will be having elections this month, there will be no regular program with a speaker presentation but we will try to have pictures available of the recent CAOAC show for everyone to view at some point during the meeting, perhaps at coffee/refreshment break.

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